

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#16

Applicants: Shuji SOGA et al.

Serial No.: 09/648,484

Filed: August 28, 2000

For: PRODUCT RECYCLE FEE PAYMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM

Group: 3629

Examiner: I. Borissov

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 16, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, except DE 199 44 688 C2. This

reference came to the attention and Applicants are submitting it herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance will be satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

U.S. Patent No. 6,305,548 corresponds with DE 199 44 688 C2, which is not cited in the search report and is not in English.

Copies of U.S. Patents Nos. 5,521,815 and 5,960,402 are not submitted herewith because they were previously cited by the Patent Office (in the September 20, 2003 and August 29, 2002 Office Actions, respectively).

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38950X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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